

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 25-30, 32-35, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44 and 45 are pending in the application.

Claims 25-30, 32-35, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44 and 45 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Figure 1 of applicants' disclosed prior art in view of SHINO et al. JP 2000-228602 and further in view of HIGGINS et al. US 5,373,264. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 25 is amended along the lines suggested by the Examiner in a telephone conversation with Mr. Robert Gozner of Young & Thompson on April 6, 2009.

However, please note that claim 25 recites that an output terminal is connected to a gate of said transistor through one of said plurality of distributed constant lines to provide a negative resistance.

In contrast, prior art Figure 1 shows the drain connected to the output terminal.

Neither SHINO nor HIGGINS overcomes this shortcoming of the disclosed prior art. Accordingly, claim 25 and the claims that depend therefrom are believed to be patentable over the proposed combination of references.

Independent claim 28 is amended along the lines of claim 25 and the analysis above regarding claim 25 applies to

claim 28. Accordingly, claim 28 and the claims that depend therefrom are believed to be patentable over the proposed combination of references.

Moreover, as seen in Figures 9 and 13 of the invention, the negative-resistance circuit of the present invention can adjust the values of the negative-resistance without greatly changing the frequency characteristic by using an adjusting element connected to an output terminal. Such a feature is not suggested by the proposed combination of references.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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